



## TOWN OF OLD LYME

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### OFFICE OF THE SELECTMEN

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Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee  
Testimony of Bonnie A. Reemsnyder for the  
Connecticut Port Authority

Good Morning, Senator Duff, Representative Janowski, Senator Kane and Representative Buck-Taylor, and members of the Executive and Legislative Committee. Thank you for considering my appointment to the newly formed Connecticut Port Authority. My name is Bonnie Reemsnyder and I am currently First Selectwoman in Old Lyme. In considering serving on this new Board of Directors, I have spent some time reviewing the study conducted in 2012 on Connecticut's Deep Water Port Strategy. I come to you as a public servant interested in finding opportunities to make Connecticut a place that attracts and retains entrepreneurs, businesses, and provides jobs for families, as we all rely on this for our future.

As Chief Elected Official of a small Connecticut town, rich in history and culture, I understand that our survival depends on collaboration in the search for opportunity and untapped resources that are right in front of us. And I believe we may have untapped resources in our three ports, though they have experienced recent challenges. Each port has functioned as an island, competing with other ports within and outside of our beloved state. While many businesses view competition as a negative thing, I believe that the savvy business person understands that good competition can be your friend, if you work together with a strategy that benefits all. For that reason, we must understand the strengths and weaknesses of each port; the challenges and the opportunities; and by working together, take advantage of the niche markets that other ports do not serve.

While I believe that the Port Authority should focus attention on the major ports within our state, I also believe that we cannot ignore the economic impact of the numerous maritime entities along the entire shoreline of the state, and these entities and small harbors must have representation on the CPA. Small towns like Old Saybrook, East Lyme and my community of Old Lyme rely on the revenue generated by these harbors and their associated attractions.

I believe that a well balanced Port Authority can help guide the future of our maritime industry to the benefit of our entire shoreline, objectively identifying our strengths, weaknesses, and investment needs to develop a well laid out path to success.

In today's world, every business must think outside the box. While this may be viewed as a cliché, it is appropriate for what we are faced in regards to our shoreline and three major ports. Together, with research, thoughtful planning, open-mindedness and listening, I believe that we can create a vibrant link in the plan to once again make Connecticut a vibrant force in the worldwide maritime community by tapping into our maritime history and identifying creative opportunities to advance the interests of port related business and jobs.

Thank you for considering my appointment, I hope you can see that I will bring a different perspective to this newly formed Port Authority.

*Bonnie A. Reemsnyder*  
First Selectwoman